

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A toner comprising:

toner particles comprising:

a first binder resin;

a second binder resin having a glass transition temperature of from 40 to 55 °C;

a colorant; and

a release agent, and

a particulate resin material which is located on surface of the toner particles with a coverage of from 50 to 100 %, and which has a glass transition temperature of from 50 to 90 °C,

wherein the particulate resin material has a volume- average molecular weight of from 1,000 to 100,000, and

wherein a weight ratio (W2/W1) between the second binder resin (W2) and the first binder resin (W1) is from 5/95 to 40/60, and wherein a ratio (G'80/G'180) between a storage modulus of the toner at 80 °C (G'80) and a storage modulus at 180 °C (G'180) is from 100 to 1,000.

Claim 2 (Original): The toner of Claim 1, wherein the G'80 is from  $1 \times 10^5$  to  $5 \times 10^7$  Pa and the G'180 is from  $5 \times 10^2$  to  $3 \times 10^3$  Pa.

Claim 3 (Original): The toner of Claim 1, wherein the G'80 is from  $1 \times 10^5$  to  $5 \times 10^6$  Pa and the G'180 is from  $5 \times 10^2$  to  $3 \times 10^3$  Pa.

Claim 4 (Original): The toner of Claim 1, wherein the first binder resin comprises a polyester resin.

Claim 5 (Original): The toner of Claim 1, wherein the second binder resin comprises a modified polyester resin.

Claim 6 (Original): The toner of Claim 1, having a volume-average particle diameter of from 4.0 to 7.0  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 7 (Original): The toner of Claim 6, wherein a ratio ( $D_v/D_n$ ) between the volume-average particle diameter ( $D_v$ ) and a number-average particle diameter ( $D_n$ ) of the toner is from 1.00 to 1.20.

Claim 8 (Original): The toner of Claim 1, wherein the first binder resin has an acid value of from 1 to 30 mg KOH/g.

Claim 9 (Original): The toner of Claim 1, wherein the particulate resin material is a resin selected from the group consisting of vinyl resins, polyurethane resins, epoxy resins and polyester resins.

Claim 10 (Original): The toner of Claim 1, wherein the particulate resin material has an average particle diameter of from 5 to 200 nm.

Claim 11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Original): The toner of Claim 1, having an average circularity of from 0.940 to 1.000.

Claim 13 (Original): The toner of Claim 1, having a spindle shape.

Claim 14 (Original): The toner of Claim 13, wherein a ratio ( $r_2/r_1$ ) between a major axis particle diameter ( $r_1$ ) and a minor axis particle diameter ( $r_2$ ) of the toner is from 0.5 to 0.8 and a ratio ( $r_3/r_2$ ) between a thickness ( $r_3$ ) and the minor axis particle diameter ( $r_2$ ) thereof is from 0.7 to 1.0

Claim 15 (Original): A developer comprising a carrier and the toner according to Claim 1.

Claim 16 (Original): A container containing the toner according to Claim 1.

Claim 17 (Original): A container containing the developer according to Claim 15.

Claim 18 (Original): A method of producing the toner according to Claim 1, comprising:

dissolving or dispersing a toner composition comprising the first binder resin and the second binder resin comprising a modified polyester resin in an organic solvent to prepare a solution or a dispersion;

mixing the solution or the dispersion with a compound having an active hydrogen atom in an aqueous medium comprising the particulate resin material to react the modified polyester with the compound to prepare a reactant;

removing the organic solvent from the reactant to prepare the toner particles; and  
washing the toner particles to remove excessive particles of the particulate resin  
material from a surface thereof.